

Our young people are flying out of Aviano tonight, this day, this hour. I hope the message that we send to them is not as a divided House or Nation but as a Nation that sees its duty and responsibility as the leader of the free world and, when it comes to the water's edge, can unite to stand for principle and for our alliance and for freedom.

□ 2030

U.S.-CUBAN BASEBALL GAME IS PROPAGANDA BONANZA FOR CASTRO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Monday the latest U.S. concession to the Castro dictatorship will take place just a few miles from the Capitol when the Baltimore Orioles will play the Cuban national team.

This event is nothing but a propaganda bonanza for Castro as it helps the dictatorship divert attention from the repression that continues on the island.

For every pitch thrown in the game, one more person in Cuba will be fearing that one of Castro's thugs could come knock on his door and arbitrarily arrest him.

For every hit, one more political prisoner in Cuba will be hungry and needing the medical attention that the regime denies him.

For every inning that goes by, one more dissident will be harassed for speaking merely about bringing freedom to the enslaved island of Cuba.

And let us not fool ourselves. Playing ball with Castro will do nothing to help the Cuban people achieve their long-sought freedom.

Just last Friday, the United Nations Human Rights Commission condemned the atrocities of the Castro tyranny. Yet on Monday we will play ball with that same dictatorship.

We must stop rewarding the Castro tyranny while the regime continues its brutal repression on the people of Cuba, who desire to live in freedom.

DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS FROM MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

(Mr. BISHOP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, about 100 members of the 41st Rescue Squadron are scheduled to leave by tomorrow to be deployed in the NATO operation to bring peace and stability to Kosovo. While all of us who serve in this body consider it a very personal matter whenever our troops are sent into harm's way, this is especially the case when they are in our own hometowns.

These troops are from Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Georgia, lo-

cated in Georgia's Second Congressional District. They carry out combat search-and-rescue missions, a highly skilled and dangerous job, yet very vital to these operations.

As they embark upon this mission, I know all of my colleagues join with me in wishing them godspeed and a safe return. My prayers go out to all of the deployed men and women and their families for a speedy return.

God bless NATO. God bless our troops and their families. God bless the people of Kosovo. And God bless America.

ON KOSOVO: BIPARTISAN VOTE IN HOUSE

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I have been a Member of this House for 14 weeks, as I shared earlier today; and I have to tell my colleagues, my pride in serving here and the honor that I share in being here multiplied at least three orders of magnitude today.

I am a thousand times more proud today of the action of this House in exercising its constitutional authority as one of the legs of this government in specifying its concerns from both sides of the aisle as to the action we have been undertaking in Kosovo.

I want to note for the record that in fact this was a bipartisan vote on both sides of the question. There were more Republicans voting in favor of continuing the President's action in Kosovo than there were Democrats voting against it. But, in fact, there were Members on both sides of the question, from both sides of the aisle.

This is a strength of America. It is the thing we have that no one else in this world does. It is something to be proud of rather than question. And I am still honored to be here.

God bless the United States of America.

TODAY IS A DAY WHICH HOUSE WILL PROFOUNDLY REGRET

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I disagree with virtually every word uttered by the previous speaker. The previous vote, in my view, represents an appalling lack of judgment, an appalling lack of will, an appalling lack of leadership, an appalling lack of vision, an appalling abandonment of the national interest, an appalling abandonment of the troops in the field, an appalling lack of bipartisanship.

It is a day which this House will profoundly regret.

IN SUPPORT OF U.S. TROOPS IN KOSOVO

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, it is so easy for other people to come up and say we should stifle our voices and not speak our minds, when people in my district from five military bases in my district are the ones that will be dying over there.

The very children of those troops that will be dying are the ones that go to public school with my children. The wives and husbands of the troops that will be dying are the ones that go to church with me every week. The ones that will be dying over there are the ones that I see every day in and out, five military bases, probably more active duty people in my district than anybody.

So let us not get up here and be self-righteous and talk about how we do not support the troops. This is about supporting the troops. If we think the President's policy is wrong-headed, do not tell me we do not have the right to come to this floor and talk about our concerns.

We have grave concerns. We need to sit back and look at the policy, refocus, and decide what is best not only for the world, not only for this country, but for the troops that we are sending in harm's way.

U.S. AND NATO WILL PREVAIL IN KOSOVO

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am just in my second term here in the United States and I have to state that tonight I have never been more embarrassed to be a Member of this institution based on the vote that we just cast a few minutes ago.

Has partisan politics so permeated this culture that we cannot see the long-term vision of what is happening in Europe? Milosevic is the only surviving tyrant left on the continent. He is surrounded by democracies.

Who amongst us 10 years ago could have predicted that some of the most repressive Communist regimes in central Europe would be flourishing democracies and members of the European Union and NATO today?

That is the inevitable course of events in Europe. And we have a role. Peace and humanity will prevail in Kosovo. The refugees will go home. They will have security. They will have self-autonomy.

And, Mr. Milosevic, make no mistake about this vote tonight, that is not negotiable; the U.S. and NATO will prevail, or God help us all.

CONGRESS IS SENDING WRONG MESSAGE TO U.S. TROOPS IN KOSOVO

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)